

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2005

Stem Cell Research: A Success Story

Dear Colleague,

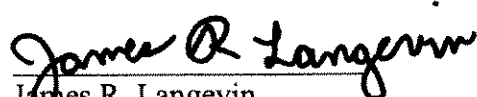
We would like to call your attention to a tremendous advancement in the field of spinal cord injury research, announced this week by the Reeve-Irvine Research Center at the University of California, Irvine. A treatment derived from embryonic stem cells has provided the first physical evidence that the therapeutic use of these cells can help restore motor skills lost from acute spinal cord tissue damage.

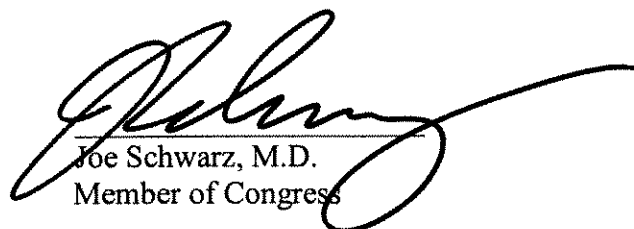
A study which will appear in the May 11 issue of the Journal of Neuroscience found that the embryonic stem cell-derived treatment was successful in restoring the insulation tissue for neurons in rats treated seven days after the initial injury, which led to a recovery of motor skills. The same treatment did not work on rats that had been injured for 10 months. The findings point to the potential of using stem cell-derived therapies for treatment of spinal cord damage in humans during the very early stages of the injury.

This groundbreaking work, supported by the Geron Corp., a UC Discovery Grant, Research for Cure, the Roman Reed Spinal Cord Injury Fund of California and individual donations to the Reeve-Irvine Research Center, underscores the need for meaningful federal investment in the field of embryonic stem cell research. As our scientists discover more about disease development and how the body can repair itself, we come closer to finding treatments and cures for people with a host of devastating diseases and chronic conditions.

We hope you will join us in cosponsoring H.R. 810, the Castle-DeGette "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act." This bill provides for an expanded embryonic stem cell research policy and requires that strong ethical standards be implemented. For more information, contact Amy Judge with Congressman Langevin at (202) 225-5976 or Jared Page with Congressman Schwarz at (202) 225-6276.

Sincerely,


James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Joe Schwarz, M.D.
Member of Congress